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ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 32

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• Official secrets

Mr. Carter seemed to disagree politely with his new CIA chief, Adm. Stansfield Turner, when asked if he joined the admiral in favoring consideration of criminal sanctions against government officials leaking information. The President would "minimize" any use of criminal penalties and seek other means of control such as reduced access. The question of criminal sanctions in relation to leaks was a thorny point in the criminal code legislation that lapsed last year. The proposed new legislation on the subject will be closely scrutinized.

The President's answer was less satisfactory on the question of whether he had been asked for CIA documents in connection with a reported grand jury investigation of former CIA director Richard Helms. Mr. Carter's seeming lack of knowledge on the matter contrasted with his preparation on other subjects.